

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A modular stroller comprising:

a. a first stroller portion capable of independent use, said first stroller portion comprising a first frame and at least a pair of rear wheels, each of said rear wheels being mounted on a rear axle portion, said pair of rear wheels having a first wheel span;

b. a second stroller portion capable of independent use, said second stroller portion comprising a second frame and at least a pair of front wheels, each of said front wheels being mounted on a front axle portion, said pair of front wheels having a second wheel span, said second wheel span being different from said first wheel span, such that said first and second stroller portions are capable of being aligned in a tandem relationship such that the rear axle portions of the first stroller portion are aligned with the front axle portions of the second stroller portion;

[[d]]c. a means for coupling in communication with said first and second stroller portions to reversibly secure the first and second stroller portions in said tandem configuration.

2. (Original) The stroller of claim 1 where the first wheel span is greater than the second wheel span and the front wheels of the second stroller portion are placed at a position inside of the rear wheels of the first stroller portion such that the rear axle portion of the first stroller portion are aligned with the front axle portions of the second stroller portion.

3. (Original) The stroller of claim 2 further comprising an alignment aid to aid in the alignment of the rear axle portions of the first stroller portion and the front axle portions of the second stroller portion.

4. (Original) The stroller of claim 3 where the alignment aid comprises an axle catch secured to at least one of the front axle portions of the second stroller portion and an axle extension secured to at least one of the rear axle portions of the first stroller portion, such that said axle catch engages said axle extension when the rear axle portions of the first stroller portion are aligned with the front axle portions of the second stroller portion.

5. (Original) The stroller of claim 3 where the alignment aid comprises an axle catch secured to at least one of the rear axle portions of the first stroller portion and an axle extension secured to

at least one of the front axle portions of the second stroller portion, such that said axle catch engages said axle extension when the rear axle portions of the first stroller portion are aligned with the front axle portions of the second stroller portion.

6. (Original) The stroller of claim 1 where the second wheel span is greater than the first wheel span and the back wheels of the first stroller portion are placed at a position inside of the front wheels of the second stroller portion such that the rear axle portions of the first stroller portion are aligned with the front axle portions of the second stroller portion.

7. (Original) The stroller of claim 6 further comprising an alignment aid to aid in the alignment of the rear axle portion of the first stroller portion and the front axle portions of the second stroller portion.

8. (Original) The stroller of claim 7 where the alignment aid comprises an axle catch secured to at least one of the front axle portions of the second stroller portion and an axle extension secured to at least one of the rear axle portions of the first stroller portion, such that said axle catch engages said axle extension when the rear axle portions of the first stroller portion are aligned with the front axle portions of the second stroller portion.

9. (Original) The stroller of claim 7 where the alignment aid comprises an axle catch secured to at least one of the rear axle portions of the first stroller portion and an axle extension secured to at least one of the front axle portions of the second stroller portion, such that said axle catch engages said axle extension when the rear axle portions of the first stroller portion are aligned with the front axle portions of the second stroller portion.

10. (Previously Presented) The stroller of claim 4 where the axle catch further comprises a hinged cover to secure the axle extension and where the alignment aid serves as the means for coupling.

11. (Original) The stroller of claim 1 where the front and rear axle portions are hollow and the means for coupling is a rod, said rod extending through the hollow front and rear axle portion of the second and first stroller portion.

12. (Original) The stroller of claim 11 where said rod further comprises a securing device to

maintain said rod in the hollow front and rear axle portion of the first and second stroller portions.

13. (Original) The stroller of claim 12 where the securing device comprises a pair of aligned holes on at least one end of said rod, said holes receiving a securing pin.

14. (Original) The stroller of claim 12 where the securing device comprises complementary mating elements, one of said complementary mating elements being located adjacent to at least one end portion of said rod and the other of said complementary mating elements being located on cap portion, said complementary mating elements engaging one other by snap-fit friction or mating threads.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 where the cap portion is a part of the hollow front axle portion, a part of the hollow rear axle portion or a removable cap.

16. (Original) The stroller of claim 12 where said rod comprises a hollow outer rod and an inner rod, said inner rod adapted to be inserted in said outer rod and said securing device comprises an expandable member secured to one end of said outer rod and a biasing means, said biasing means in communication with said expandable member and at least one of said inner rod and outer rod, such that the biasing means and the inner rod allow the expandable member to alternate between a first position and a second position depending on the position of the inner and outer rods, said first position allowing the rod to be inserted through the front and rear axle portions of the first and second stroller portions and said second position allowing the rod to be maintains within the hollow front and rear axle portions of the first and second stroller portions.

17. (Original) The stroller of claim 1 where the means for coupling comprises a receiving latch and an axle nub, said receiving latch being of a generally U-shaped configuration, said receiving latch being located on at least one of the rear axle portions of the first stroller portion and said axle nub being located on at least one of the front axle portions of the second stroller portion, such that said receiving latch receives said axle nub when the rear axle portions of the first stroller portion are aligned with the front axle portions of the second stroller portion.

18. (Original) The stroller of claim 1 where the means for coupling comprises a receiving latch and an axle nub, said receiving latch being of a generally U-shaped configuration, said receiving

latch being located on at least one of the front axle portions of the second stroller portion and said axle nub being located on at least one of the rear axle portions of the first stroller portion, such that said receiving latch receives said axle nub when the rear axle portions of the first stroller portion are aligned with the front axle portions of the second stroller portion.

19. (Previously Presented) The stroller of claim 17 where the receiving latch comprises a hinged cover to further secure said axle nub.

20. (Original) The stroller of claim 1 where the means for coupling comprises a retractable element located in at least one of the front axle portions of the second stroller portion, a receiving aperture located on at least one of the rear axle portions of the first stroller portion and an alternating mechanism capable of alternating the position of the retractable element between a retracted and an extended position, said retractable element extending into the receiving aperture when the retractable element is in the extended position such that said first and second stroller portions are reversibly coupled together.

21. (Original) The stroller of claim 20 where the retractable element is a retractable pin.

22. (Original) The stroller of claim 1 where the means for coupling comprises a retractable element located in at least one of the rear axle portions of the first stroller portion, a receiving aperture located on at least one of the front axle portions of the second stroller portion and an alternating mechanism capable of alternating the position of the retractable element between a retracted and an extended position, said retractable element extending into the receiving aperture when the retractable element is in the extended position such that said first and second stroller portions are reversibly coupled together.

23. (Original) The stroller of claim 22 where the retractable element is a retractable pin.

24. (Original) The stroller of claim 1 where the front and rear axle portions are hollow and the means for coupling comprises a first rod and a second rod, said first rod extending through the hollow front and rear axles portions of a first set of said front and rear wheels to secure said first set of wheels, and said second rod extending through the hollow front and rear axles portions of a second set of said front and rear wheels to secure said second set of wheels.

25. (Original) The stroller of claim 1 where the means for coupling comprises at least one bar in communication with the first and second stroller portions.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25 where the at least one bar is pivotally secured to at least one of the first or second stroller portions.

27. (Original) The stroller of claim 25 where the at least one bar is collapsible.

28. (Original) The stroller of any of the preceding claims further comprising a securing strap in communication with said first and second stroller portions.

29. (Original) The stroller of claim 1 wherein the first and second stroller portions are not identical in structure.

30. (Original) The stroller of claim 1 wherein the first and second stroller portions are identical in structure.

31. (Original) The stroller of claim 1 where the first stroller portion is a single stroller or a double stroller and the second stroller portion is a single stroller or a double stroller.

Claim 32. (Canceled)

33. (Original) The stroller of claim 1 where each of the first stroller portion further comprise a first bar portion, said first bar portion being hingedly connected to said first frame at a first point and releasably connected to said first frame at a second point such that the first bar portion can alternate between a horizontal locked position and a vertical unlocked position and the second stroller portion further comprise a second bar portion, said second bar portion being hingedly connected to said second frame at a first point and releasably connected to said second frame at a first point and releasably connected to said second frame at a second point such that the second bar portion can alternate between a horizontal locked position and a vertical unlocked position.

Claims 34 - 37. (Canceled)

38. (Original) The stroller of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first and second stroller portions are foldable.

39. (Previously Presented) The stroller of claim 5 where the axle catch further comprises a hinged cover to secure the axle extension and where the alignment aid serves as the means for coupling.

40. (Previously Presented) The stroller of claim 8 where the axle catch further comprises a hinged cover to secure the axle extension and where the alignment aid serves as the means for coupling.

41. (Previously Presented) The stroller of claim 9 where the axle catch further comprises a hinged cover to secure the axle extension and where the alignment aid serves as the means for coupling.

42. (Previously Presented) The stroller of claim 18 where the receiving latch comprises a hinged cover to further secure said axle nub.

43. (New) A modular stroller comprising:

- a. a first stroller portion capable of independent use, said first stroller portion comprising a first frame and at least a pair of rear wheels and having a first wheel span;

- b. a second stroller portion capable of independent use, said second stroller portion comprising a second frame and at least a pair of front wheels having a second wheel span, said second wheel span being different from said first wheel span, such that said first and second stroller portions are capable of being aligned in a tandem relationship such that the rear wheels of the first stroller portion are aligned with the front wheels of the second stroller portion;

- c. a coupling mechanism in communication with said first and second stroller portions to reversibly secure the first and second stroller portions in said tandem configuration.

44. (New) A modular stroller comprising:

a. a first stroller portion capable of independent use, said first stroller portion comprising a first frame and at least one rear wheel with a first lateral position relative to the first frame;

b. a second stroller portion capable of independent use, said second stroller portion comprising a second frame and at least one front wheel with a second lateral position relative to said second frame, said second lateral position being different than said first lateral position such that said first and second stroller portions are capable of being aligned in a tandem relationship, such that said at least one front wheel is laterally aligned with said at least one rear wheel;

c. a coupling mechanism in communication with said first and second stroller portions to reversibly secure the first and second stroller portions in said tandem configuration.